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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987

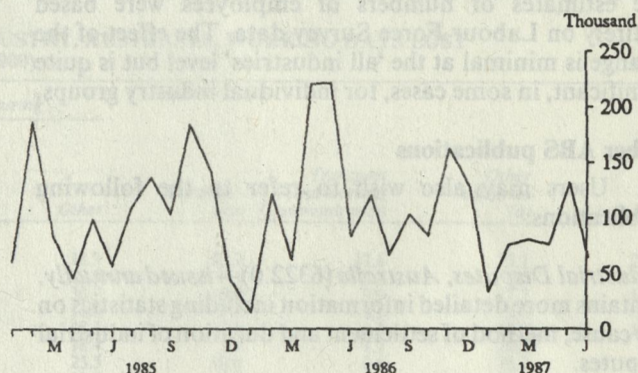
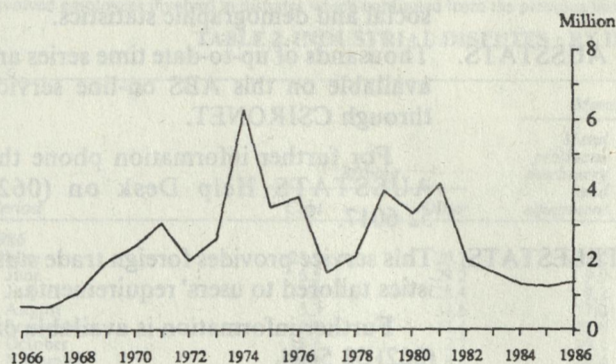
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### MAIN FEATURES

#### WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA

Year ended December

January 1985 to June 1987



In June 1987, there were 65,200 working days lost by 41,400 employees in 145 disputes, compared with 131,500 working days lost by 106,700 employees in 146 disputes in May 1987.

In the 12 months ended June 1987, 1,131,400 working days were lost compared with 1,446,600 and 1,305,800 working days lost in the 12 months ended June 1986 and June 1985 respectively. This is the lowest level for a 12 month period since the 12 months ended March 1986 when 1,122,400 working days were lost.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in *all* industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

#### Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.



8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Surveys.

#### Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

#### Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1985* (6101.0)

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0)—issued quarterly

11. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

12. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### Electronic services

13. VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

**IAN CASTLES**  
Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Employees involved (' 000)		Working days lost (' 000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1986					
May	162	178	236.1	240.2	221.8
June	118	130	30.3	35.2	83.5
July	194	208	75.4	80.8	119.9
August	132	147	27.6	29.6	67.3
September	151	171	53.9	64.1	102.7
October	177	195	70.6	74.6	84.2
November	162	185	49.0	63.3	162.2
December	99	124	31.9	49.0	128.8
1987					
January	91	95	12.8	15.1	34.2
February	124	140	25.9	41.7	76.3
March	148	166	54.8	63.6	81.5
April	117	138	62.3	66.3	77.6
May	r126	r146	r80.3	r106.7	r131.5
June	126	145	35.8	41.4	65.2
Twelve months ended—					
June 1985	1,881	1,896	609.8	612.2	1,305.8
1986	1,802	1,826	686.0	692.1	1,446.6
1987	1,647	1,661	580.3	585.9	1,131.4
December 1984	1,958	1,965	551.1	560.3	1,307.4
1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
1986	1,680	1,687	673.7	675.9	1,390.7

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST (' 000)

Period	Manufacturing				Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Mining		Metal products; machinery and equipment	Other				
	Coal	Other						
1986								
May	23.1	20.7	82.2	18.9	52.2	11.6	13.1	221.8
June	6.5	29.2	9.0	12.8	9.1	9.3	7.6	83.5
July	17.5	28.4	9.2	30.7	6.9	9.9	17.2	119.9
August	5.3	31.6	7.0	11.0	3.3	2.6	6.6	67.3
September	6.8	11.6	11.8	48.1	7.0	1.1	16.3	102.7
October	18.8	2.7	19.1	18.4	3.2	1.7	20.4	84.2
November	20.1	8.3	19.4	25.5	10.0	0.8	78.2	162.2
December	12.7	11.5	4.5	13.7	8.7	1.1	76.7	128.8
1987								
January	1.0	13.5	3.8	2.7	6.8	3.1	3.3	34.2
February	30.8	2.4	5.4	17.5	8.0	2.2	10.0	76.3
March	6.7	4.0	20.8	12.2	26.5	4.9	6.5	81.5
April	15.2	3.7	27.3	10.2	7.9	5.9	7.5	r77.6
May	r30.1	1.8	39.5	25.7	19.5	5.7	9.1	r131.5
June	7.3	4.7	12.4	15.1	15.0	3.0	7.7	65.2
Twelve months ended—								
June 1985	238.6	101.4	165.0	186.4	146.7	179.0	288.7	1,305.8
1986	361.2	160.9	159.8	190.3	176.0	169.5	229.0	1,446.6
1987	172.3	124.1	180.3	230.9	122.5	41.9	259.4	1,131.4
December 1984	131.1	193.2	144.8	249.3	116.3	150.6	322.1	1,307.4
1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST (' 000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1986							
May	91.5	69.0	13.5	19.9	18.2	7.0	221.8
June	54.4	12.2	3.9	0.7	3.2	8.0	83.5
July	59.9	20.5	19.9	3.6	12.7	2.6	119.9
August	12.6	11.8	7.4	2.9	31.7	0.6	67.3
September	33.6	29.5	18.9	3.1	13.4	1.5	102.7
October	37.7	27.9	6.0	2.1	7.3	1.7	84.2
November	45.2	81.1	16.5	4.1	11.1	3.2	162.2
December	19.4	86.4	5.3	3.4	13.4	0.8	128.8
1987							
January	12.7	3.5	1.3	0.6	14.4	0.4	34.2
February	44.6	19.6	2.8	0.3	4.2	0.3	76.3
March	41.2	20.9	2.4	2.2	11.3	1.3	81.5
April	52.6	11.0	3.4	1.5	3.9	2.1	r77.6
May	r84.2	27.6	7.7	5.5	2.9	2.6	r131.5
June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	1.3	65.2
Twelve months ended—							
June 1985	581.6	225.0	314.6	24.8	100.8	32.9	1,305.8
1986	599.4	382.0	246.4	41.6	108.9	32.9	1,446.6
1987	462.8	356.6	104.0	34.3	134.1	18.4	1,131.4
December 1984	660.6	187.5	236.5	25.5	119.2	50.5	1,307.4
1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.



TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242
Twelve months ended—								
1985								
June	7,039	1,881	393	309	573	435	80	242
1986								
June	10,751	2,867	374	309	688	400	60	256
July	11,085	3,182	382	308	627	384	60	257
August	11,038	3,454	374	244	561	345	58	244
September	10,479	3,553	371	302	466	336	59	243
October	10,561	3,562	407	296	439	276	38	225
November	10,950	3,142	441	312	437	143	55	228
December	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242
1987								
January	10,758	3,600	451	330	467	135	72	245
February	9,168	3,567	456	353	477	131	70	237
March	8,904	3,589	478	356	567	123	70	240
April	4,881	3,238	r526	353	r581	126	67	215
May	r5,013	2,890	424	363	r454	112	65	r199
June	5,128	2,415	432	365	477	98	65	195

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

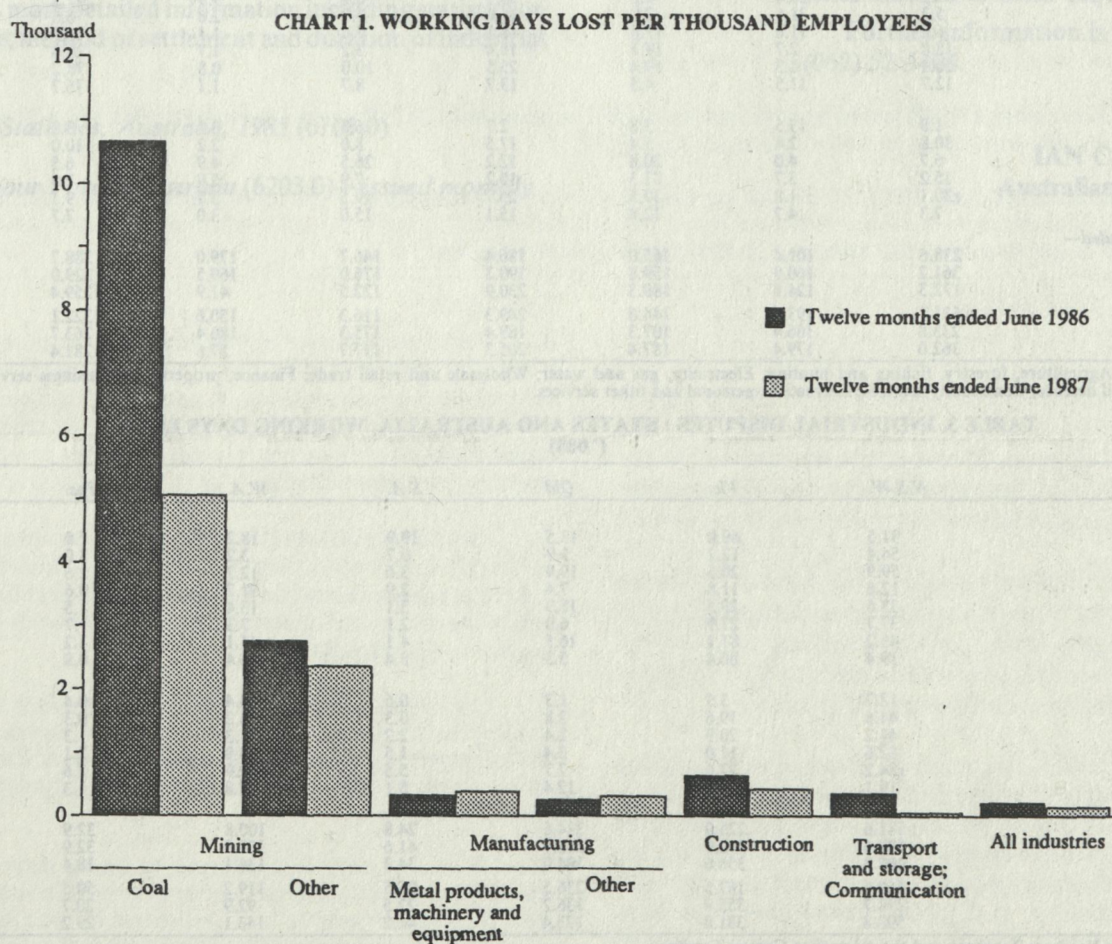




TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1984	357	132	302	55	256	350	248
1985	209	236	411	47	187	138	228
1986	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
1985							
June	310	154	392	53	210	223	242
1986							
June	309	245	297	86	213	217	256
July	321	233	306	89	211	198	257
August	305	226	259	86	245	171	244
September	303	239	223	87	257	176	243
October	299	180	221	85	256	179	225
November	306	191	206	92	253	194	228
December	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
1987							
January	307	239	208	95	295	186	245
February	288	247	187	92	291	176	237
March	290	252	186	91	303	179	240
April	255	246	121	91	271	190	215
May	251	220	114	61	241	161	199
June	232	222	125	70	249	118	195

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

